Form 10-300 - (Rev. 6-72)

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The building is a rectangular brick structure with a bell hipped roof. The main (west) facade has a small straightgabled porch with two arched openings along the flanks and an arched entranceway: it is a later addition to the structure. There are two windows flanking the porch on the main and balcony levels of the facade; these two are believed to be later additions. The north side wall is four bays; the window openings are square-headed with the regular Flemish bond coursing of the walls carried over them without relieving arches. The south side wall is three bays, the center bay being a double door; all openings are square headed with segmental relieving arches infilled with brick between the soffit of the arch and the window frame. At the east end, a round window has replaced the original square-headed opening; patchwork for the former window shows it to have had a relieving arch like those on the south wall. A boxed cornice with bed moulding replaces an earlier cornice.

The interior is a single large rectangular space with a balcony at the west end; the ceiling and wall plaster has been removed as part of the restoration now being carried out. The exposed brick walls have nailers for furring strips set into the brick at points about one third and two thirds of the distance from the floor to the wall plate. The openings have wooden lintels (except where they have been replaced by thinner metal strips over two windows on the north facade). Three large tie beams, mortised into the wall plates, divide the space into four bays; the beams were once plastered, although more recently they were boxed and are now exposed.

The balcony at the west end is supported by tie beams and posts. A beam across the west wall supports the balcony's floor joists, which extend across the beam and are also mortised into the west wall. Another beam supports the east end of the balcony; it is mortised into the side walls and is also supported by posts. The floor joists of the balcony are exposed and beaded on both edges. The balustrade consists of stiles with raised panels. The present balcony replaces an earlier one that projected farther into the room at a slightly higher level; mortises for the tie beam and floor joists for this earlier balcony are visible in the brickwork.

The present brick and concrete floor is of recent date. The only surviving evidence for the original floor level is the thickening of the west wall by about six inches near the base; the shelf thus created probably carried the original floor joists. Although the floor under the balcony has been lowered, the floor of the sanctuary (a step higher) is probably about

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

Maryland	
Prince George	's
FOR NPS USE ON	LY
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Continuation Sheet)#1

(Number all entries)

#### #7 Description (Continued)

at the level of the original floor. The double doors on the south wall had to be shortened when the present floor was installed, suggesting their alteration at some earlier date when the floor was lowered.

The roof framing employs a principal and common rafter system, with the three principal rafters positioned over the tie beams and five common rafters between the principals. The principal rafters are notched on the outside edge at midpoint and the single purlin sits in the notch. Angle braces are mortised and tenoned into the principal rafters near their bases and then into the lower side of the purlins. Common rafters run from the plate to the purlin and from the purlin to the ridge. The lower run are mortised into the plate and into the lower side of the purlin; the upper run are mortised into the upper side of the purlin and are half-lapped and pegged together at the ridge. Collars, all about the dimensions of a common rafter, are half-lapped over both principal and common rafters just above the purlin. On the end hips, all the rafters are common and are mortised into either side of the purlin and run either from plate to purlin or from purlin to angled corner rafters, which in turn are mortised and tenoned together at the ridge.

The supporting members for the barrel vault spring from inside the wall plate. They are suspended from the collars at three points by rough-cut boards nailed onto both the collars and the arches. There is one arch for each principal and common rafter. On the end walls, where the vault angles inward, furring strips are nailed directly onto the rafters.

The congregation, with Orin Bullock as a consultant, is currently working on a restoration of the church. A new roof, replastering the vault, and a new exterior cornice are the first elements of the restoration work. Eventually, the congregation hopes to replace the balcony with one conforming to the original dimensions. The work is being done by church members, who are carefully checking the remaining fabric for clues of former appearance as they remove existing elements.

PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		·
☐ Pre-Calumbian!☐ 15th Century	☐ 16th Century ☐ 17th Century		20th Century
PECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicat	le and Known) 17	67-1768	
REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as Approp	riate)	
Abariginal  Prehistoric  Historic  Agriculture  Architecture  Art  Commerce  Communications  Conservatian	☐ Education ☐ Engineering ☐ Industry ☐ Invention ☐ Landscape ☐ Architecture ☐ Literature ☐ Military ☐ Music	Palitical  Religian/Philosaphy Science Sculpture Social/Humanitarian Theater Transportation	Urban Planning Other (Specify)

St. John's Church, Broadcreek, is an important mid-eighteenth century ecclesiastical structure. The barrel vaulted ceiling with its intricate support system and the bell hipped roof comprise two of the elements which give this church architectural distinction. The plain, box-like exterior with the southern entrance, gives the structure a domestic appearance indicative of the Low Church religious attitudes of the Age of Enlightenment. The addition of a porch formalizing the west entrance and the permanent closing of the south door predictably occurred in the nineteenth century concurrently with the Gothic Revival and with increased religiosity. stained glass windows provide another instance of physical changes to conform with current ecclesiastical attitudes. The present restoration reflects not a change in religious attitudes but rather the growing public interest in the preservation of eighteenth century, "colonial" structures.

The present structure is the fourth building on the same site. The vestry records contain the specifications for each of the churches which enables the precise dating of the extant St. John's to 1767-1768.

In 1692 when Maryland became a royal colony with an established church the assembly created several parishes including King George which stretched from Charles County to Pennsylvania.

The first vestry meeting occurred the next year at the home of Colonel John Addison, founder of the prominent Prince George's County family. Within two years the parish had constructed the first St. John's Church.

In 1710 John Fraser became the first priest at St. John's Church. Previously, the parish had been served either by lay readers or by incumbants from neighboring parishes. Reverend Fraser's reply to a guery from the Bishop of London in 1724 gives a brief picture of the parish at that time. There were 400 families with 1200 taxables in an area of

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

Marvland

county

Prince George's

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER DATE

(Continuation Sheet) # 2

(Number all entries)

#8 Significance (Continued)

about 900 square miles. Service was held three Sundays a month at Broadcreek, one Sunday a month at a chapel, one weekday at "the new settlement" and another weekday from Easter to Michaelmas at "another corner of my Parish inconvenient to Church or Chapel." In addition, he reported that he had accepted the parish only because of his "wife's real estate being in the parish." (His wife, the former Ann Smallwood, had inherited "Blue Plains" near Oxon Hill.)

Henry Addison, a descendant of Colonel Joseph Addison, became the second minister in 1742. His tenure is noted for the construction of the present St. John's Church as well as improvement of two chapels of ease: the Upper Chapel (St. Matthew's Church, Seat Pleasant) and the Lower Chapel (Christ Church, Accokeek). Addison's Anglicanism extended into politics. Forseeing a conflict he returned to England on September 10, 1775. His nephew, Walter Dulany Addison, of similar religious but not political leanings, became rector of St. John's after the Revolution. The younger Addison was the first priest ordained in America by Thomas John Claggett, the first Episcopal bishop consecrated in the United States.

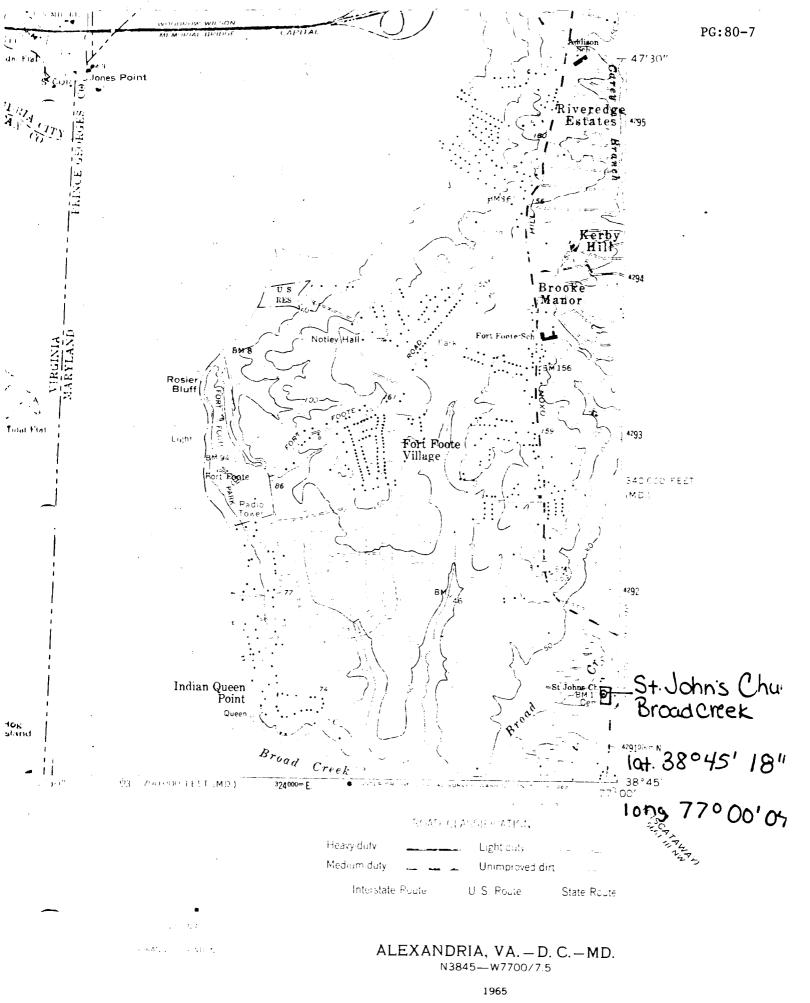
#### 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Vestry Minutes of St. John's Parish

Allen, Rev. Ethan. Historical Notes of Piscataway alias St. John's Parish. Copy of mss. at St. John's (Broadcreek).

Heinton, Louise. Prince George's Heritage. Baltimore: The Maryland Historical Society, 1972.

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# PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORIC SITES SUMMARY SHEET

P.G. County S	urvey # _	80-7	Date _	1722,	1766
Building Name	St. Jo	hn's Church,	, Broad Creek		
Location 980	l Living	ston Road, C	oxon Hill, Md	•	
Open to Publi	с <u>х</u> уе	s no	Restricted		

St. John's Church is a Georgian style, rectangular brick structure laid in Flemish bond, with a hipped roof which flares out at the eaves. On the west facade a small, square, gabled porch extends over the main entrance. A double door forms the central bay on the south facade. This was the main entrance originally. Centered on the east facade are two twelve-over-nine windows which have recently replaced a circular stained glass window which was installed in 1910. The north facade is four bays wide with one twelve-over-nine light window in each bay.

Piscataway Parish, now known as King George's, was established in 1692, as one one of the thirty original Church of England parishes in Maryland. A frame structure was ouilt at Broad Creek in 1695, which burned some time later, to be replaced by a second frame church in 1790. That building also burned. In 1722, the first brick church was built. In 1766 and 1768, that building was enlarged and remodeled to the present dimensions.

The first resident rector, John Fraser, was appointed in 1710 and was followed by Henry Addison in 1742. Addison's Loyalist sentiments caused him to go to England in 1775. His nephew, Walter Dulany Addison of Oxon Hill Manor, became rector in 1801, the first Episcopalian priest to be ordained in America by Thomas John Claggett, first Bishop of Maryland,

### MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

#### NOMINATION FORM

for the NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

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7.	DESCRIPTION							
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The building is a rectangular brick structure with a bell-hipped roof. The main (west) facade has a small, straight-gabled porch with two arched openings along the flanks and an arched entranceway; it is a later addition to the structure. - There are two windows flanking the porch on the main and balcony levels of the facade; these too are believed to be later additions. The north sidewall is four bays; the window openings are square-headed with the regular Flemish bond coursing of the walls carried over them without relieving arches. The south sidewall is three bays, the center bay being a double door; all openings are square-headed with segmental relieving arches infilled with brick between the base of the arch and the At the east end, a round window has replaced window frame. the original square-headed opening; patchwork for the former window shows it to have had a relieving arch like those on the south wall. A boxed cornice with bed moulding runs around all facades.

The interior is a single large rectangular space with a balcony at the west end; the ceiling and wall plaster have been removed as part of the restoration now being carried out. The exposed brick walls have nailers for furring strips at points about 1/3 and 2/3 of the distance from the floor to the wall plate. The openings have wooden lintels (except where they have been replaced by thinner metal strips over two windows on the north facade.) Three large tie beams, mortised into the wall plates, divide the space into four "bays"; the beams were once plastered, although more recently they were boxed and are now exposed.

The balcony at the west end is supported by tie beams and posts. A beam across the west wall supports the balcony's floor joists, which extend across the beam and are also mortised into the west wall. Another beam supports the east end of the balcony; it is mortised into the sidewalls and is also supported by posts. The floor joists of the balcony are exposed and beaded on both edges. The balustrade consists of stiles and raised panels. The present balcony replaces an earlier one that projected farther into the room at a slightly higher level; mortises for the tie beam and floor joists for this earlier balcony are visible in the brickwork.

7.	DESCRIPTION		
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	CONDITION	Excellent Good Foir Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed	
	CONDITION	(Check One) (Check One)	
		Altered, Uncliered Moved Original Site	

The present brick and concrete floor is of recent date. The only surviving evidence for the original floor level is the thickening of the west wall by about six inches near the base; the shelf thus created probably carried the original floor joists. Although the floor under the balcony has been lowered, the floor of the sancturary (a step higher than that under the balcony) is probably about at the level of the original floor. The double doors on the south wall had to be shortened when the present floor was installed, suggesting this earlier alteration at some date when the original floor was lowered.

The roof framing employs a principal and common rafter system, with the three principal rafters over the tie beams and five common rafters between the principals. principal rafters are notched on the outside edge at midpoint and the single purlin sits in the notch. braces are mortised and tenoned into the principal rafters near their bases and then into the lower side of the purlins. Common rafters run from the plate to the purlin and from the purlin to the ridge. The lower run are mortised into plate and lower side of purlin; the upper run are mortised into the upper side of the purlin and are half-lapped and pegged at the ridge. Collars are half lapped over both principal and common rafters just above the purlin. On the end hips, all the rafters are common and are mortised into either side of the purlin and run from plate to purlin and from purlin to angled end rafters, which are mortised and tenoned together at the ridge.

The supporting members for the vault spring from inside the wall plate. They are suspended from the collars at three points by rough-cut boards nailed onto both the collars and arches. There is one arch for each principal and common rafter. On the end walls, where the vault angles inward, furring strips are nailed directly into the rafters.

The congregation, with Orin Bullock as a consultant, is currently working on restoring the church. A new roof replastering the vault, and a new exterior cornice of Georgian design are the first elements of the restoration work. Eventually, the congregation hopes to replace the balcony with one conforming to the original dimensions

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GNIFICANCE		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
□ Pre-Columbion	☐ 16th Century	☐ 18th Century	20th Century
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REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as Appropri	ate)	
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Conservation	☐ Music	Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

King George Parish was established in 1692 as one of the original four parishes of the Episcopal Church in Maryland. Known at that time as Piscataway Parish, its boundaries were Mattawoman Creek, the Charles County line to the Pennsylvania line, the Pennsylvania line to the Potomac River, and the Potomac River to the mouth of Mattawoman Creek. On January 30, 1693, a vestry first met at the home of Col. John Addison at Broadcreek to build the first church, which was completed Thirteen years later, a second frame church was built, its dimensions being 50 ft. by 24 ft. with a 13 ft. In 1722, the first brick church building was built, gallery. costing 24,000 lbs. of tobacco, with John Lane contracted to erect the walls and John Radford, carpenter, to supply pews In 1766, the vestry voted to contract and build the gallery. with Mr. Clelland to rebuild the church, adding 14 ft. to the width by moving the south wall and 12 ft. to the length by moving either the east or west end wall. The building specifications called for a rather thorough remodelling to give the building its present appearance. The remodelling, however, was evidently regarded as inadequate, since the following year the vestry decided to offer Mr. Clelland additional payment to take down the walls and construct a new building meeting the previous specifications.

The first rector, Rev. John Fraser, appointed to serve St. John's (Broadcreek) arrived in 1710. Previously, the parish had been served by lay readers or incumbants from neighboring parishes. Rev. Fraser, who had previously served at Port Tobacco and Durham parishes, was married to the former Ann Smallwood, who inherited "Blue Plains" near Oxon Hill; in a reply to a 1724 query from the Bishop of London, he reported that he accepted the incumbancy at St. John's only because of his "wife's real estate being in the parish." He also reported that the parish served 400 families with 1200 taxables in an area of over 900 square miles. He preached

PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)	•	
Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century	☐ 18th Century	. 20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicat	ble and Known)		
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as Appropri	ete)	
Abar iginal	■ Education	☐ Political	Urban Planning
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☐ Art	Architecture	Social/Humon-	_
Commerce	Literature	itarion	
Communications	Military	Theater	
Canservotian	Music	Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

three times a month at Broad Creek, one Sunday a month at a chapel, one weekday in "the new settlement", and another weekday from Easter to Michaelmas at "another corner of my Parish inconvenient to Church or Chapel."

The second rector of St. John's (Broadcreek); appointed in 1742, was Henry Addison, son of Thomas Addison of Barnaby Manor. During Rev. Addison's incumbancy, the present church building was completed, the Upper Chapel (Addison's Chapel, Seat Pleasant) was enlarged, reclapboarded, and repaired, and the Lower Chapel (Accokeek) was built in brick. But while the parish was growing in population and wealth under Rev. Addison's care, his incumbancy became increasingly precarious as the Revolution approached. Like his more vocal step-sister's husband, Rev. Jonathan Boucher of Queen Anne's Parish (St. Barnabas' Church, Leeland), Rev. Addison was a Tory and on September 10, 1775, both men departed for England, leaving St. John's without a rector for 10 years.

During the post-Revolutionary years, the former Anglican Church was reorganized to give the Vestry, as elected representatives of the congregation, control over Church property and appointments. In 1783, John Dent, Richard Dent, Luke Marbury, Leonard Marbury, William Baker, William Barley, and Anthony Addison were elected vestrymen, with William Bayne, Sr. and John McDaniel chosen churchwardens. Rev. Joseph Messenger, the first rector elected by the vestry, arrived from St. Andrew's Parish, St. Mary's Co., in 1795. He was the last rector of St. John's to be licensed by the Bishop of London, for in 1792 Rev. Thomas John Claggett of St. Paul's Parish (Croom) was consecrated the first American Bishop and and the first Bishop of Maryland. His first ordination was that of Walter Dulany Addison, nephew of Rev. Henry Addison; he became Assistant at St. John's until 1805, when Rev.

PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	🐯 18th Century	20th Century
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SPECIFIC DATE(S) (Il Applicat	ie and Known)		
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as Appropri	ate)	
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Conservation	Music	Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Messenger's resignation resulted in Rev. Addison's appointment as rector. In 1809, he resigned to become first rector of St. John's (Georgetown), and two years later his brother-in-law, Rev. William Gibson, took over the parish.

By this time, the chapel at Accokeek had been established as an independent church but without territorial jurisdiction and served initially by Rev. Ethan Allen of St. John's.

Throughout its history, St. John's (Broadcreek) avoided being torn assunder by the controversies that divided many churches. Although Rev. Henry Addison was forced to leave the country in 1775, he had never had to preach with loaded pistols on the pulpit as Rev. Boucher reportedly did. Even the Civil War did not split the church; the attitudes of Dr. John Bayne are representative of the mediating attitudes of parishoners: Although he protested admitting runaway slaves through Union lines, Dr. Bayne served as a surgeon with the Union Army, and remained a friend of Lincoln's Secretary of War, Stanton, as well as of Samuel Cox of Rich Hill (Port Tobacco) who assisted John Wilkes Booth escape from Washington.

9.	MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES				
	Vestry Minutes of St. George's Allen, Rev. Ethan. <u>Historical St. John's Parish</u> . Mss. Heinton, Louise. <u>Prince George Wilfong</u> , James. "Salubria" Pr 1969. (pp. 17, 32)	l ] ae	Notes of Piscatav	72	4,
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Form 10-445 (5/62)

Md . STATE PG COUNTY VICINITY #48 TOWN STREET NO. 1601 Oxon Hill Rd. At end of Dixon Rd. ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE Church PRESENT OWNER Episcopal Archdiocese HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY

2. NAME St. Johns Church

DATE OF PERIOD C. 1723

STYLE ARCHITECT

BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION

Church

1 story-high ceiling

Brick

OPEN TO PUBLIC

Orig. King George Parish 1692? Tradition- George W. was here Several Buildings-old church still complete hip roof-square diamond patterned slate shingles Flemish bond-some glazed headers Victoriam stained glass windows original west entry with concrete and brick porch addition East front closed in-large circular stained glass window Large cemetery strrounding-earliest tombstone 1760

No danger

PRESENT USE

NO. OF STORIES

WALL CONSTRUCTION

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endongered

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

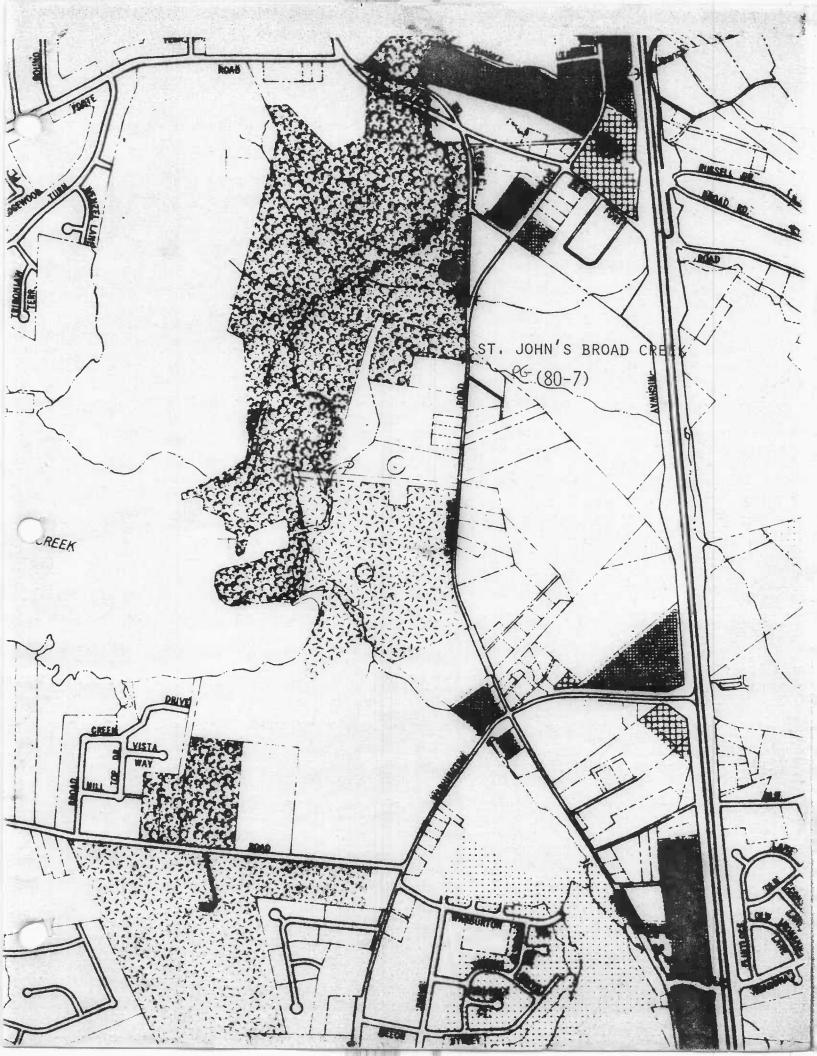
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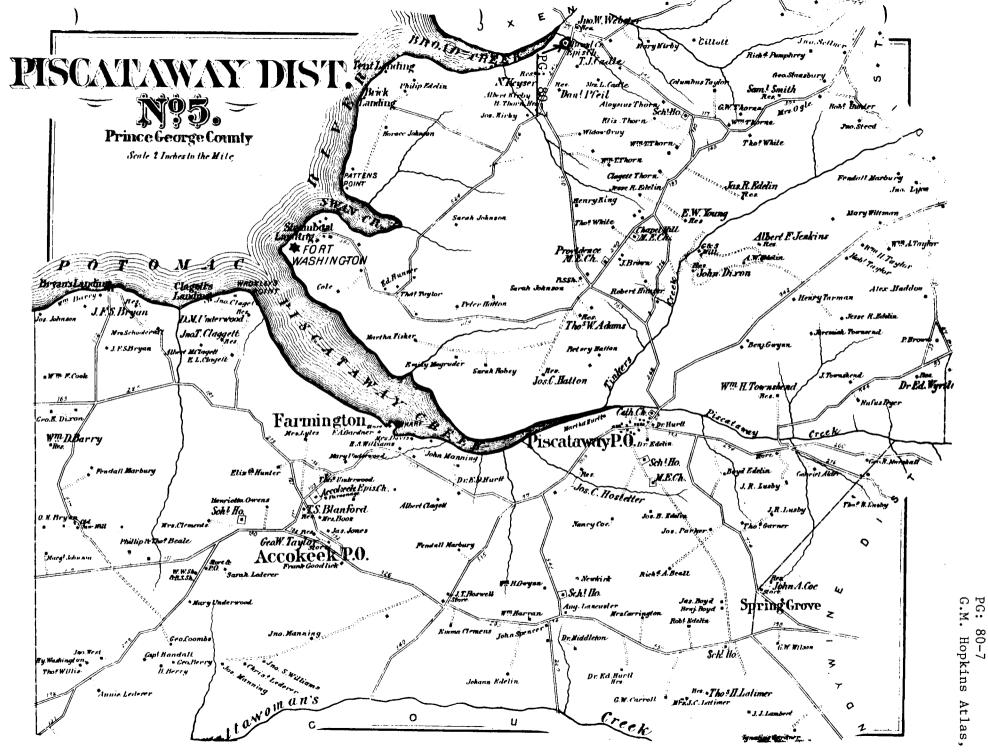
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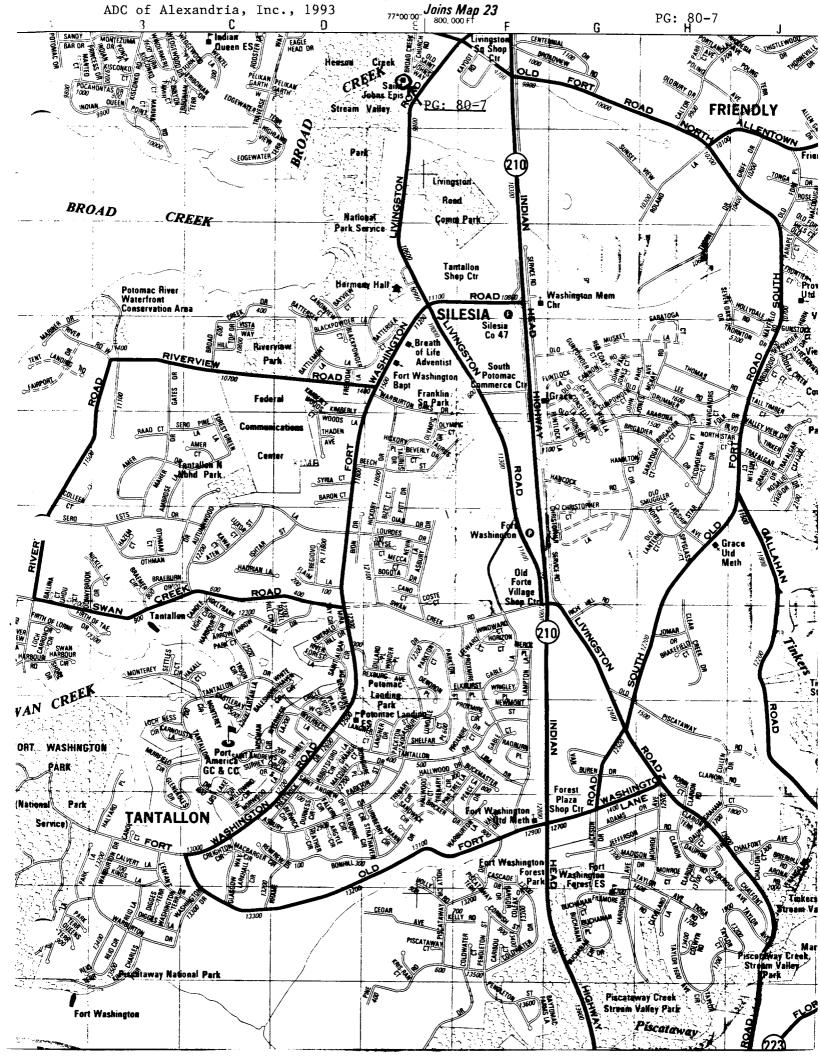
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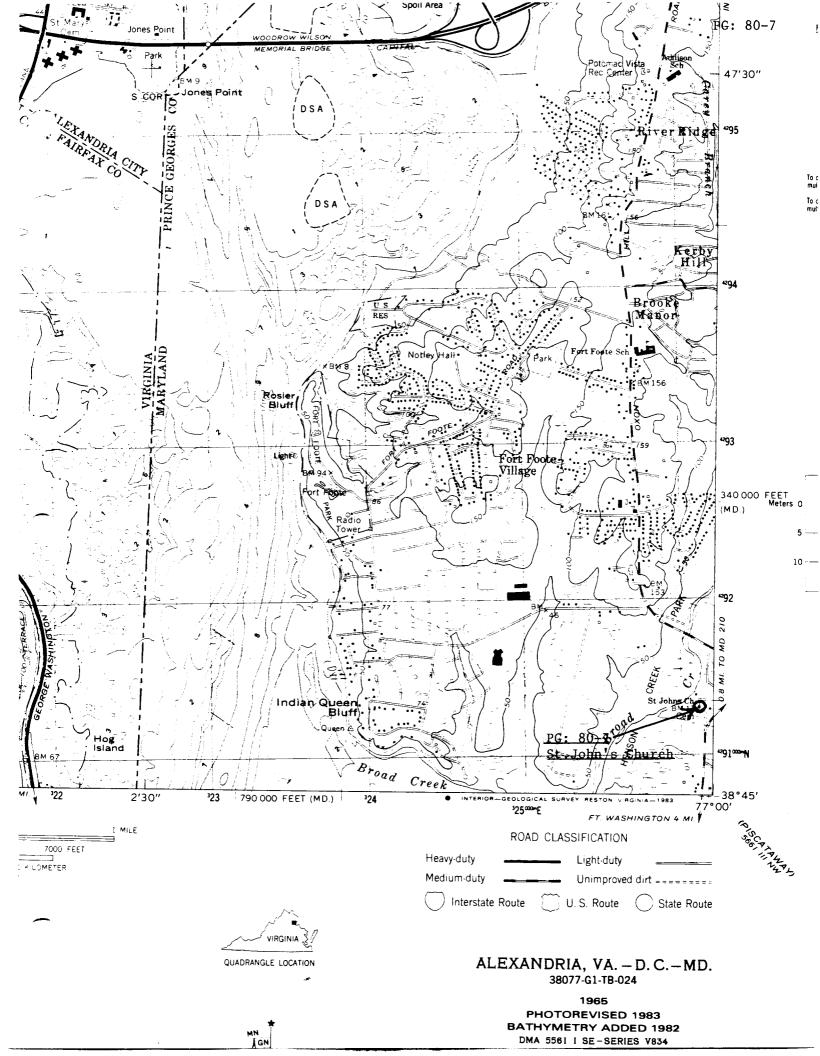




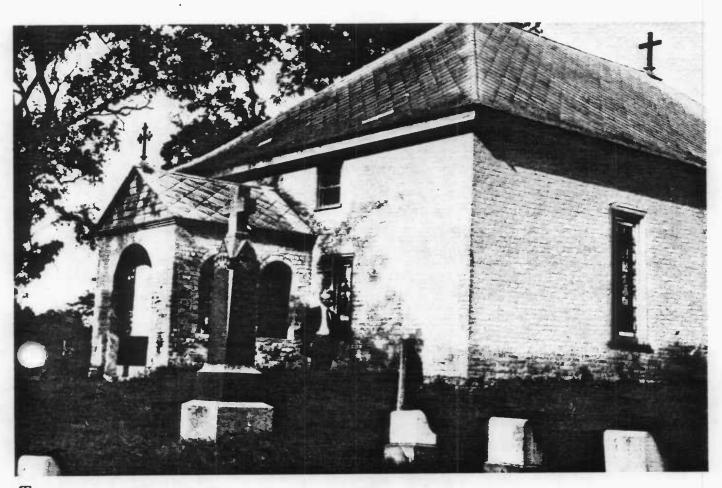
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Virta, Alan 1984 Prince George's County, a Pictorial History. Norfolk: Donning Company.



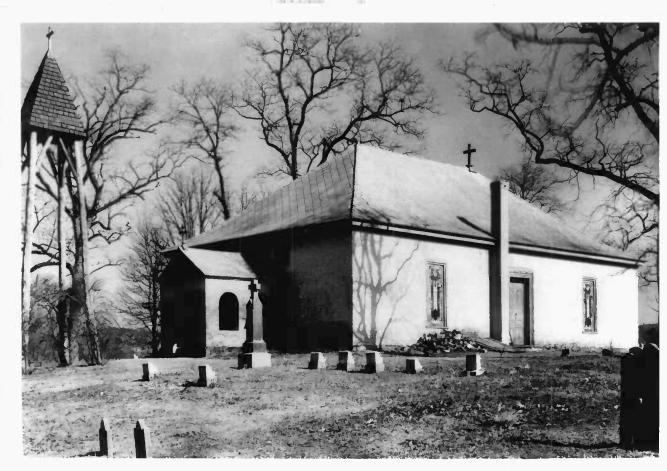
This old church, photographed in the 1930s, is Saint John's at Broad Creek, one of the oldest Episcopal churches in the county. There has been a church at Broad Creek since at least 1695; this one was built in 1766, incorporating part of an earlier church built in 1722. The parish which Saint John's serves was one of the thirty original Anglican parishes of Maryland, created in 1692 when the Church of England was established in Maryland. The church is presently undergoing a thorough restoration, a major portion of which is complete. Historic American Buildings Survey photograph; courtesy of the Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division



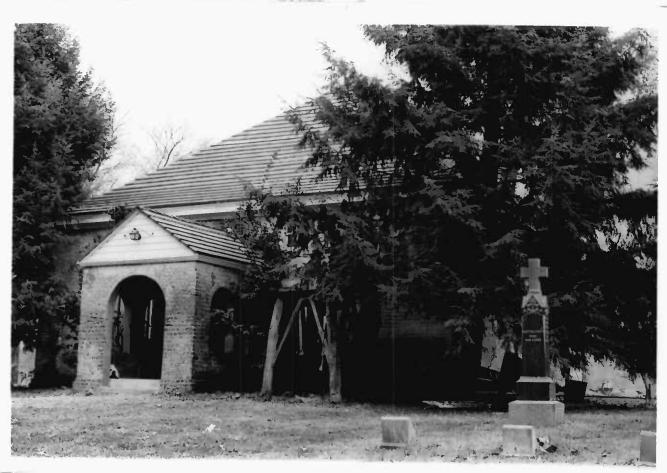
St. John's Church
St. John's (Broodercex)
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Christopher Owens Summer 1973 Negi MHT

South Facade



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NAME ST. JOHNS - BROAD CREEK P.G. 80-7 LOCATION 9801 LIVINGSTON Rd OXON HILL, Md

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PHOTO TAKEN 11/19/73 M.DWYER

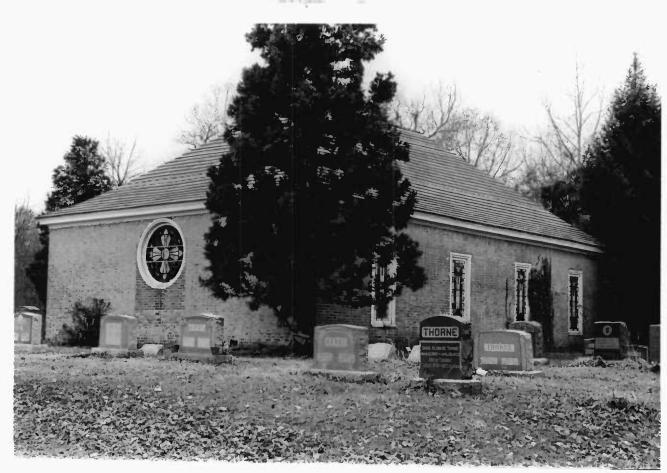


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LOCATION 9801 LIVINGSTON Rd OXON HILL, Md

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NAME ST. JOHNS - BROAD CREEK

LOCATION 9801 LIVINGSTON Rd OXON HILL, Md

FACADE NE

PHOTO TAKEN 11/19/73 M.DWYER



NAME ST. JOHNS - BROAD CREEK P. G. 80-7 LOCATION 9801 LIVINGSTON Rd OXON HILL, Md

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PHOTO TAKEN 11/19/73 M.DWYER



NAME ST. JOHNS - BROAD CREEK P. G. 80-7

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PHOTO TAKEN 11/19/73 M. DWYER

LOCATION 9801 LIVINGSTON Rd. OXON HILL, Md



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NAME ST. JOHNS - BROAD CREEK

LOCATION 9801 LIVINGSTON Rd OXON HILL, Md

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NAME ST. JOHNS - BROAD CREEK

LOCATION 9801 LIVINGSTON Rel OXON HILL, Md.

FACADE ALTAR FROM BALCONY

PHOTO TAKEN 11/19/73 M.DWYER



NAME ST. JOHNS BROAD CREEK P.G. 80-7 LOCATION 9801 LIVINGSTON Rd OXON HILL, Hd FACADE BALCONY - WEST WALL

PHOTO TAKEN 11/19/73 M. DWYER